

SOCER ACTION

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Guy Spiteri
**A new
State
League?**

Ajax president Guy Spiteri has forthright ideas on revolutionising Victoria's State League soccer.

He is not happy about talk of extending the Victorian State League to 16 clubs. Spiteri argues the league should be reduced in size, 'owing to the inexperience and the lack of ability of some of the present State League clubs.'

Spiteri suggests:

- Stop the proliferation of clubs within the metropolitan area and encourage amalgamation.

- Stop junior games being played at the same time as State League games.

- Stop Industrial League games being played on Sundays.

- Be more choosy with regard to State League membership.

- Demand that State League clubs improve their existing facilities, both ground and social.

- Selected junior players between the ages of 16 and 21 be tied by a five-year apprenticeship scheme with their clubs.

- The VSF should employ a top notch promotions man, his salary to be paid 50 percent by the federation and 50 percent from a levy imposed on State League clubs.

After 15 rounds, a 16 team State League should split into two groups — a championship and relegation zone. Then, the next 15 games should be played along these lines: The top eight clubs play each other twice for the championship; the bottom eight play each other twice to decide the relegation issue.



By LAURIE SCHWAB

A new generation of soccer stars will make its mark in the 1983 National League competition which starts on Sunday.

If the National Cup first round was any guide, the success of the national youth team has rubbed off on young players throughout the league.

In Melbourne, Heidelberg's Mike Valentine scored two goals and right back Ian McKie was one of the best on the ground against J.U.S.T.

In Adelaide we had a promising debut by young forward Steve Maxwell of Adelaide City and he's likely to be joined on Sunday by youth Soccerco Juniors' Ian McKie.

In Brisbane, Steve Clockner starred in City's attack and youth Soccerco Juniors' Steve Marconi had a fine debut for Lions.

David Lowe of Newcastle maintained his brilliant form and in Sydney, two young players have been added to the national youth squad which started a training camp at Camperdown on Monday. They are Marconi left back Joe Rizzotto and Olympic centre back Tony Dakos.

Senior players also know the value of showing their best form, as national coach Les Scheinflug has started his search for players to strengthen the Australian squad which meets England in June.

Last Sunday, Scheinflug went to St George Stadium specifically to watch goalkeeper Terence Greedy, stopper Mike O'Shea and Scheinflug's old favorite, Peter Stone.

New men at new clubs also will have a major bearing on the outcome of Sunday's first round of NSL matches. Doug Brown of Hellas, for example, scored twice in his debut against his former club, Makedonia, last Sunday.

The Channel 0/28 "Match of the Day" is Marconi v. South Melbourne Hellas at Marconi Oval. Channel 0/28 will show the match on Sunday night.

Marconi's budget cuts prevented coach Doug Collins from buying the experienced players he wanted and forced him to place his trust in youth. That trust has so far resulted in Marconi winning the NSW Ampol Cup and beating triple champion Sydney City Hakoah 3-2 last Sunday.

The Marconi team features no less than five youth players — Tom McCulloch, Atti Ca-

Continued p. 4

By Alex Vesic

The ASF and NSL last week sent a telegram to the Prime Minister, Minister for Communications, Leader of the Opposition as well as the Shadow Minister for Communications and Shadow Minister for Sport, indicating soccer's disenchantment with the ABC.

The ABC has refused to cover the NSL because of the ASF's failure to guarantee the ABC rights to international soccer played in Australia.

The ASF recently signed a four year contract with the Seven Network to televise Australia's international matches. A commercial network was needed to satisfy the needs of ASF sponsor West Natty which has signed a \$3 million deal over four years to help Australia on its path to qualifying for the 1986 World Cup. It was indicated to the ABC that Australia could not

seriously participate in international soccer without such sponsorship. At the same time, the ASF decided that the commercial value of the NSL was not sufficient to warrant commercial TV.

The recent Dix report recommended that the ABC should, by reason of its public obligations, cover those sports which are either not commercially viable or are not given ample coverage in rural areas. Soccer is such a sport. But while the national basketball and ice hockey league enjoy coverage, soccer was told that international soccer must be a part of the package.



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Fire victims won't get full value

Even Victorian Soccer Federation officials are upset over coach Len McKendry's approach to a charity match to raise money for Victorian bushfire victims.

The game, between a State League selection and a National League selection, will be played at Olympic Park today (Wednesday) at 8.15pm.

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The NSL team, on the other hand, is a much more sensible selection, comprising four players from each of the four clubs — Hellas, Makedonia, JUST and Heidelberg-Alexander.

The State League squad features seven players from Ajax

whereas two would have attracted the Ajax fans just as well. It features three Croatian players, and the other clubs represented are Croydon, Sunshine-George Cross, Doveton and Box Hill.

Clubs not represented are: Juventus, Hellas, Fawkner, Wilhelmina, Albion Rovers, Folona, Northcote and Morell Fulham. These clubs represent at least 4000 regular soccer spectators. Even if one can expect only 10 per cent of them at a charity game, then at \$5 a head, the bushfire victims are being deprived of \$2000. That's the absolute minimum. It's probably much more.

As it appears, this game seems to be less a charitable exercise than a victory vehicle for McKendry and the hardcore of his former State side.

I spoke to VSF officials who agree that the squad should have been much more representative. "But it's up to the coach," they added, apologetically.

• SEE CRAIG MACKEN-

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT!
Wednesday March 9th.

The Glasgow Celtic Supporters Club of Victoria will screen 'The Celtic Story' at 7.30 pm at the Wayside Inn, City Road, South Melbourne.

Admission is only \$3

Send \$5 to the Bushfire Appeal Fund and come to the Wayside Inn and enjoy the story of your favourite club with a clear conscience!

Marconi's Sermann new star in NSL?

In Tommy Sermann, Marconi has acquired a player who already has made his mark in three countries and possesses the credentials to make a considerable impact in his latest environment.

Glasgow-born, Sermann had his first taste of senior soccer in the colors of Scottish second division side Albion Rovers as the 1973-74 season started.

He netted on his debut against Forfar Athletic and finished the campaign as the Coateside club's leading goalscorer.

Although always more of a schemer and creator of goals than a specialist striker, and playing for a mediocre outfit, Sermann regularly appeared on the scoresheet.

Rovers struggled at the bottom end of the league ladder yet twice reached the Scottish Cup and the Cup quarterfinals during the Glaswegian's five seasons with them, which produced 38 goals from 151 appearances.

A number of English clubs were reported to be checking on his progress before one of them, Blackpool, offered terms and the part-time player-schoolteacher became a fully-fledged professional in March, 1978.

He already had experienced playing soccer outside his native land however, for a year earlier, New Zealand's Christchurch United recruited him for a brief, but highly successful, stint as a guest player.



Marconi recruit Tommy Sermann.

Unfortunately, Blackpool was in the midst of the most miserable period in its history when Sermann joined. Once a long established force in the First Division, it slipped from Second to Fourth Division in four seasons.

The Scot was given little opportunity to help turn the tide, playing just 10 first team games before transferring to Torquay United after only 17 months in Lancashire.

Sermann quickly proved his worth at Torquay — a town noted for being the home of "Fawley Towers" and flawed football. Converted into a cultured, probing midfielder, he was appointed team captain in his first season.

A serious cartilage injury only became a bothersome interruption to Sermann's career, but the grave financial state of English soccer almost ended it.

In April, 1982, the majority of Torquay's playing staff were shed, including the skipper.

Sermann had become dis-

enchanted long before then. Early in the season, the Devon club led the Fourth Division but the transfer of key players sabotaged all promotion ambitions and the Gulls slumped back into their customary lowly position.

Torquay's policy may have kept it in the black, but it was no recipe for success on the pitch.

Another short spell with Christchurch United restored Sermann's appetite for the game and prompted speculation that his future lay in New Zealand, but it was not to be and the linkman, somewhat reluctantly, returned to Scotland and, he feared, the blackboard jungle.

The Caledonian had few reservations about signing then when Marconi approached him late last year. A dedicated performer, who never gives less than his best, the 29 year old well could be the cornerstone of Marconi's bid for honors in 1983.

Watson was to make 25 appearances with Oxford, before a \$40,000 transfer took him to Carlisle United.

— PAUL MOON

KB's Watson joins youth exodus to Oz

By PAUL MOON

Old England youth internationals, it appears, do not fade away — they move to Australia!

Neil Banfield, Ian Buckley, Les Carter, Alun Evans, Alan Whittle and Eric Young already have made their presence felt here and now Newcastle KB United's latest recruit, Gary Watson, has swelled the ranks of former English junior representatives "down under".

Watson was called up by his country in November, 1978, for the Monte Carlo Youth Tournament and played against Portugal, Yugoslavia, Spain and Italy. Teammates included John Lukic (Leeds United), Bob Hindmarsh (Sunderland), Clive Allen (QPR), Steve McCall (Ipswich Town), Mike Fillery (Chelsea), Gary Shaw (Aston Villa) and Wayne Clarke (Wolverhampton Wanderers); all now well established in the English game.

He played 30 first team games for the Cumbrians before falling out of favor with manager Bob Stoke and was given a free transfer in April, 1982.

The six footer, who will be 22 on March 2, can play equally effectively at left back or in the center of defence. If KB coach Ken Kaiser can produce the best from him, Watson will be a tremendous asset for the cold gold boys.



New player for the "Bear-gers"

She got a real kick out of it

LAUGHS WITH THE DOC

By JOE DOCHERTY



• NEW SPONSOR: The new combine from the Western suburbs, Suncross or is it George-shine, has acquired a new sponsor, and if the outfit it was wearing last week is anything to go by, then I think it is being sponsored by "Liquorice Al-saors". Big Riggers, when he came on, looked like a deck-chair in search of a beach.

Now Rudi's in Fiji



The latest stop on Rudi Gutendorf's world travels is Fiji.

Having left Nepal, where he was coaching as part of a FIFA developmental programme, Gutendorf (pictured) now has accepted the appointment as Fiji national coach.

If Australia again has to play Fiji in the next World Cup qualifying matches, Gutendorf will be able to renew old acquaintances — bitter as they may be.

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Just imagine the tension. A crowd had begun to gather, panic was setting in and fear for the child's safety was in everybody's mind (except Billy's).

Yelling to the young girl to stay calm and on the count of three let go, Billy prepared himself for the ultimate act of bravery.

The crowd counted to three the child let go, then plummeted to the ground.

As she fast approached the concrete path, Billy launched himself into a mighty leap to his left (just as well he's pretty poor going down to his right), grabbed the kid and pulled her into the safety of his solid but hairless chest, rolled over a few times then leapt to his feet, the child clasped firmly in his arms.

The crowd went berserk! "Billy!! Billy!! Billy!!" they chanted. "She was a tunnel vision year," Billy acknowledged the crowd's adulation with a nonchalant wave of his right hand.

Then he proceeded to bounce the kid three times and booted her right up High Street.

Nae bother to our Wullie!



Bill Whiteside

• CROWD PLEASER: How about last Saturday's Buffalo Cup double header? A bonus should be paid to the lads who took part in conditions which only can be described as ultra-idiotic.

In Britain they put games off because of ice. Here we have to throw ice on to keep the game going. It was so hot the bobbie ate Shorrock's hat started peeling.

Apparently they caught four people climbing the fence and made them come back and watch the second half.

An announcement came over the P.A. system, "here for the benefit of the players is a list of today's spectators".

Just after this things got really nasty and the crowd invaded the park and the players gave them a doing.

• CANDIDATE: All is quiet on the "Dink" frontier but Benny "Erskine" Ferrie is being closely watched. We are bringing a language expert from Penge University to decipher all conversations between "Erskine" and Andy "Barry Manilow" McMillan.

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The Socceroos have been criticised heavily over their two losses to New Zealand, but soccer's a funny game. You attack your opponents and put them under pressure for 90 minutes and because of a couple of defensive errors, you find yourself losing the match.

You might say we should have converted the chances we had. OK, I agree, but let's remember that New Zealand's goalkeeper, Barry Pickering, was in great form.

As far as statistics are concerned, they all went our

KAT'S CORNER
with PETER KATHOLOS



Three NSL shows on Channel 0/28

On behalf of all the players and clubs, I extend our thanks to Channel 0/28 for once again supporting the National League.

Channel 0/28 will, in Melbourne and Sydney, show a half-hour Monday night programme of match highlights, a Friday night half-hour preview show and the Sunday night "Match of the Day".

The first Match of the Day is Marconi v South Melbourne Hellas at Middle Park.

And we're on again on Sunday, March 27, when we play mighty Sydney City at our home ground, Pratten Park.

Lee Murray, who also does the soccer from Europe and South America, will be the anchor man on all three National League shows, and the main commentators will be Mike Hill, Laurie Schwab, Tom McKain, Mark Leonard, Steve Doszpot and Tim White.

The following week, Sunday, March 20, my

team, Sydney Olympic, will be featured in the Match of the Day, against South Melbourne Hellas at Middle Park.

And we're on again on Sunday, March 27, when we play mighty Sydney City at our home ground, Pratten Park.

Lee Murray, who also does the soccer from Europe and South America, will be the anchor man on all three National League shows, and the main commentators will be Mike Hill, Laurie Schwab, Tom McKain, Mark Leonard, Steve Doszpot and Tim White.

So keep tuned, fans.

Let's have sparkle

Another season gets under way at the weekend and I'm sure it will be the toughest yet.

To the clubs and the players, I'd like to say: Let's give the playing customer value for money. Let's not have negative tactics and defensive-minded teams.

Let's play positive, attacking soccer and make sure the fans keep coming back for more.

I wish all the players and their clubs a good season. Let's work together to make this great game a major code in Australian sport.

My tip for the opening round (winners in capitals):

Heidelberg v APIA-Leichhardt (draw).

ST GEORGE v Newcastle KB.

Wollongong v Brisbane City (draw).

FOOTSCRAY JUST v Preston Makedonia.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v West Adelaide Hellas.

MARCONI v South Melbourne Hellas.

Brisbane Lions v SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENVENTUS v Canberra City.



• Cole Bennett (right) beats Heidelberg's Gary Cole in the air

Sime back-up for Bennett

"Don't write me off yet" — that's the word from rugged Lions defender and former Socceroo stopper Col Bennett, who has not trained for more than a month because of a pinched sciatic nerve.

Bennett, an electrician, injured his back while lifting ladders at his Christmas break, the injury only when he resumed training in early January.

Whenever the hulk-like defender went any faster than a jog he was struck by a piercing pain down his back and into his leg.

At first, he thought it was a development of a calf injury he carried without complaint for much of the second round last season. But when physiotherapy failed to cure the injury, tests revealed the pinched nerve.

Bennett was hospitalised for two weeks to allow the nerve to settle and be manipulated. After he was discharged, Bennett sought every kind of treatment from chiropractors to acupuncturists. He even tried to contact his old Western Suburbs mate Peter Wilson, to see if he had any advice after also being troubled by a back injury.

If the way Bennett approached each new suggestion of treatment were a medicine he would have been back on the park in a week, but unfor-



Ricky Rosso

tunately things have not been as speedy as Bennett, and indeed Lions would have liked and with the season fast approaching everyone has begun to write him off.

"I might not make the first couple of games but I have only missed five games in 14 years. I am not about to spoil that record," the optimistic Bennett said last week, despite still not being able to train with his team.

"I might even make a comeback as a sweeper. I thought about it a couple of times last year after we lost at Port Moresby and I think it's a sort of dual career profile. I could do it."

"But I don't care if I have to play centre forward or goalkeeper. I would just like to be fit enough to play again. I don't want to be a clog for the rest of my life and if the doctors say to give it away I will. But if I can get over this injury and look after myself properly, I fancy my chances to keep on going for at least another couple of seasons," Bennett said.

Lions, understandably, could not afford to wait for Bennett and have been forced to search for a replacement.

Almost miraculously a player virtually fell into the club's lap, two weeks ago. He is former Footscray and Brechin City defender John Sime. Although Sime is fractionally slighter than Bennett, he plays the same, tackles the same, even looks the same and, in an amazing coincidence, even is an electrician.

Sime, 32, contacted Lions by mail about a month ago asking for a trial as he was emigrating with his wife. He had been put onto the club through a friend and former Lions player Graham Smith.

Sime had been transferred in his job as a carpenter and joiner six months ago and had been forced to leave Brechin.

He still continued to play for a Scottish junior league team during his two weeks a month off the rig, but found it hard to maintain consistency. Eventually he decided to "make a break" and applied to come to Australia.

The Scotsman, who also spent three years at Dundee after leaving school, took an instant liking to the set-up at Lions and, as a free agent, signed for the club last week.

If Bennett isn't fit to play in the opening rounds, Sime is certain to be the team's first choice. But if the big man gets over his injury, Lions will have two lookalikes of similar style and that might not be bad news.

How many national league strikers would relish the thought of having to get around one Col Bennett and immediately be faced with another? It's an interesting but sadistic thought.

I know how important the games were to the Australian public and the media but there's certainly no need to panic. No mass changes are needed. This team is the nucleus of the eventual World Cup side and it will mature and improve with time.

OK, perhaps one or two changes are needed at this stage but we certainly don't have to change half the team, the way some people have suggested.

Had we lost because of bad play, then such extreme suggestions perhaps would have borne some weight but let's remember that we played not badly, but well, we lost only because of a few silly defensive errors.

Also, let's recall my last column in "Soccer Action," when I said a team has to be like a family. Well, this team has been together for only six games or so, and it takes time for players to polish off their rough edges and understand and combine with each other.

Personally, I am bitterly disappointed at our results against New Zealand, but I am sure we will be able to beat New Zealand easily in future internationals.

The match ended a long period of frustration for the long-time stand by, whose international appearances have been cruelly restricted by a series of injuries.

Like many who fill his position, Pickering started as an outfit player before reluctantly being persuaded to operate between the posts when the usual occupant became ill, and has remained there ever since.

First representing Hutt Valley at under 8 level in 1964, he spent the next dozen years moving up through the province's grade XIs.

Entering senior football, four seasons were spent with Petone in the Central Regional League, before Pickering moved to Rothmans National Leagues Stop Out in 1977 and promptly helped his new team gain its highest ever position on the ladder — second.

In the same season, he made his debut at full representative level, appearing for the Wellington team beaten 1-0 by Northern New South Wales.

International recognition came within a month in the South Korean president's Cup. The young keeper played against Iran, Morocco, Sing-

apore and a West German XI, earning much praise playing behind a team which often found itself outplayed.

In the following year however Pickering was relegated to third choice, with Richard Wilson and former Dundee United professional Sandy Davie favored.

That setback though was inconsequential in comparison with the traumas of 1980.

With van Hatum now on the scene, the Stop Out custodian slipped further down the ratings.

What's more, his club was relegated and the nine goals conceded in one game against Mount Wellington still stand as a league record.

A highly enjoyable tour of Northern New South Wales and Queensland with Wellington in September and October brought welcome light relief but upon returning home Pickering had to

ponder the future, for his career was now at the crossroads.

He remained in the national league, accepting terms offered by Christchurch Merton United, although it meant commuting 400 kilometres each weekend from his Wellington home.

This dedication and the consistently good form he displayed for the Canterbury club, was rewarded by selection for the New Zealand B team which contested the merdeka Tournament in Kuala Lumpur. Here he faced Malaysia and Indonesia, keeping clean sheets against both.

Shortly afterwards Pickering was drafted into the World Cup squad, as cover for Wilson and van Hatum.

Unfortunately a severe, recurring knee injury prevented him from challenging the established two and he remained sidelined for most of the following 18 months.

Consequently Pickering had limited opportunities to serve the Wellington-based National Mutual Miramar Rangers club, which he had joined early in 1982 but achieved match fitness in sufficient time to participate in the latter stages of the Chatham Cup, in which Miramar reached the final.

This plus some solid performances in the Mundial build-up games against Walford and the League of Ireland, clinched his membership of the Spain bound squad, though he was only a tourist.

Only 26 last December, Pickering has the inside running in the race to be new Zealand's goalkeeper when the next World Cup campaign commences. Les Scheinfeld has not seen the

'Roos haven't seen the last of Pickering

"I don't want to see that goalkeeper any more," was the backhanded compliment of Socceroo coach Lee Scheinfeld after his side had been beaten 2-1 by New Zealand, despite creating many more scoring opportunities.

Barry Pickering had an outstanding game in the Kiwi goal, making many superb saves. One effort in particular clawing away a deflected shot by Alan Niven at the foot of his post, must have been particularly heart-breaking for the Australians, coming just eight minutes from time.

Yet the National Mutual Miramar Rangers player was a surprise selection which, when announced shortly before kick-off, caused a buzz to circulate Mount Smart.

World Cup hero Frank van Hatum had been regarded as one of the few certainties in the restructured home team, only for new coach Allan Jones to demonstrate his astuteness by fielding the sharper Pickering.

Barry Pickering

By PAUL MOON



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Stars back for Hakoah, Stevenson to JUST?

From page one
per. There's also Alan Davidson, a seasoned Soccerco at 21, and Carl Hartford, the human dynamo in midfield, who's also in his early twenties.

With Doug Brown joining Charlie Egan up front, Hellas looks better than Marconi in every department, and should win, especially if Marconi striker Mark Jankovics fails to recover in time from a knee injury.

Melbourne fans will flock to the local derby between Footscray J.U.S.T. and Heidelberg-Alexander at revamping Schnitter Reserve, which now boasts the best playing surface in Victoria.

JUST was joined last week by striker Joe Carroll from England. Carroll played for Ringwood-Wilhelmina for part of 1982 and returned to England where he scored 11 goals in 14 matches for Northern Premier League side Morecombe. He previously played for Halifax and Oldham in England. Bulova in Hong Kong and Sacramento Gold in the US. He had a fine debut against Heidelberg in the National Cup but JUST needs still more talent, so coach Bobby McLachlan is looking at three possible recruits from interstate and Melbourne, including

midfielder John Stevenson of Hellas.

Striker Eric Sinclair of Dundee is expected to join in about five weeks, and the team will also benefit in midfield when Vlakko Belli recovers from a recent operation.

Midfielder Alex Livingston from Scottish club Albion Rovers is likely to make his debut for Makedonia, and Claude Lucchesi also will return to the starting line-up.

With Graham Tuttl returning to the JUST after a week's lay-off, and Kev Kyte Maleda probably starting in defence instead of midfield, JUST should beat Makedonia which was thoroughly outplayed by Hellas last Sunday.

St George, beaten in the Ampol Cup final by Marconi and in the National Cup by Olympic after looking so good earlier, faces another tough task against Newcastle KB last Sunday.

Led by new captain Craig Mason, who scored twice in Ampol last week and boasting brilliant David Lowe up front, Newcastle has the talent to win again, despite the return of St George sweeper David Ratcliffe after a one-match suspension.

Newcastle coach Ken Kaiser was so happy with his team last Sunday that he predicted Lowe, Joe Senkowski and Howard Tredinnick soon would break into the senior Soccerco squad.

New centre backs Peter Burke and Gary Watson from

England performed well in their first match for Newcastle, and I expect these two, with help from Tredinnick and Ralf Mauer, to contain St George's deadly goalscorer, Dez Marson. In other words, Newcastle should beat Makedonia.

Sydney Olympic coach Tommy Doherty will be looking for more accuracy from striker Mark Kinsella, who should have had a hat-trick by half time against St George last week, yet failed to score at all.

Olympic this time meets West Adelaide Hellas, whose tall striker Paul Wormley had a dream debut against Adelaide City in the Cup, scoring the only goal of the game.

Wormley, 21, from Townsville United, was top scorer in the Queensland State League last year and previously played in England for Huddersfield and Basley. With service from winger Graeme Heys, Wormley will be a

threat to Olympic, but I can't see any way that West Adelaide can win this one.

The brilliant Olympic midfield of Jim Patikas, Peter Katholos and Peter Raskos will see to that.

Patikas did so well in his two-goal performance last week, that coach Doherty predicted European scouts would be after him during the World Youth Championships in Mexico in June.

Adelaide City used youth Soccerco Joe Mullen as a substitute in its Cup match, and he came very close to scoring just after coming on. Mullen therefore is likely to be called up to partner another young player, Steve Maxwell in attack, with Les Carter and John Nyskohorn providing the experience.

Adelaide City's opponent is Canberra, which is getting good value from burly striker Phil Redmond from Downer Olympic. Apparently youth Soccerco Frank Farina, a right winger, is set to join Canberra from the Institute of Sport, and we may see him in action against Jive'.

Tony Brennan also should be back in the Canberra team after missing last Sunday's match, so despite the brilliance of Adelaide City sweeper Neil Barton, I predict a Canberra victory.

Brisbane City is expecting a Yugoslav striker to arrive any day now, and if he makes it at time, he may play against Wollongong. Alan Hughes, formerly of Lions and APIA, also has joined Brisbane City, and Joe Cairney, who had a poor debut season in 1982, now is showing his true form. With Jim Hermiston at the helm as coach, Brisbane City looks much too strong for Wollongong despite the great ability of strikers Phil O'Connor and Roy McMillan and the hard work of midfielder Jim McBreen and Gaffney.

Heidelberg-Alexander, which has transfer-listed John Zyndron and Jamie Paton and which may have Arthur McMillan on the bench, is looking for at least one more forward but still looks capable of beating APIA at home or Jive'.

That is a tall order for any coach and I do not envy Morton his task.

On the other hand McKendry has a hard act to follow at Green Gully which had almost complete success in the past two seasons under Bobby McLachlan.

How do you top that?

One way is to win the competition undefeated.

The other is to play more enterprising and entertaining soccer which pleases the eye just as much as winning pleases the heart.

I fancy winning trophies will be more on McKendry's mind.

Certainly that is what will be expected of him.

On the other hand, if he has the best players in the Victorian State League he should win trophies.

Winning does not harm any coach's reputation, no matter what the level of competition.

Ask Ray Radis who restored his name with Blacktown City in the NSW State League last year after taking it to relegation the season before.

Heidelberg-Alexander, which had a poor start to the season, will have more of a chance, but nevertheless he will find it difficult.

His recent splitting of the Paton-Cole partnership was evidence that he intended to be his own man, with his own methods, not bound by what had gone before.

Yet the fact is Paton and Cole developed rapport and understanding under the tutelage of McKendry, just as did other sections of the team.

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Patikas' two-goal performance cuts up St. George

Syd. Olympic 3 St. George 0

Wilkerson 6, J. O'Shea 7, Marton 7, Coligari replaced Marton 69th minute.

The scoreline was very precise in its final determination which stated Sydney Olympic 3 St. George 0 in the National Cup clash at St George Stadium but a more correct reading would have been Jim Patikas 3 St George 0.

Youth international Patikas destroyed the St George backline and toyed with the Saints midfield through immaculate

control, blistering drives and switches of play, as well as scoring a double.

Under a searing sun, the teams completed a scoreless first half where speed appeared the dominant factor and goals of little importance.

Four minutes into the second half, Marty Rogers

of the series of events

which eliminated St. George from the Cup in the space of 120 seconds.

His cross from the right into the area bounced to Soper, who grabbed the half chance with a left foot hook into the Saints goal. Two minutes later, Patikas scored and any spectator would travel a long way to see it.

He played a one-two with Gary Phillips, picked up the return pass on the left sideline, cut into the area, slipped around two defenders and cracked a right foot drive past keeper Terry Greedy.

Ten minutes from time, he charged through the midfield and from 25 metres thundered the ball with his left foot into the opposite side of the net.

Katholos acted as a clever foil for Patikas and frequently drew away some of the pressure on the young international, who was receiving close attention from the St. George defence.

Des Marton was unable to cope with the heat and the pace and was replaced

early in the second session, while Mark Barton

stood out as the most constructive player in the Saints attack.

— PETER WINDSOR

— KNUST WERNER

Canberra boosted by big Redmond

Canberra..... 2 Wollongong... 1

CANBERRA: Hosszegi 8; Young 7, T. Byrne 7, Murray 8, Brink 7, B. Byrne 7, Christopoulos 7, Cole 7; Gibson 8, Redmond 7, McLaren 7.

WOLLONGONG: Preston 8; Willis 7, Pollard 7, Vilkstone 7, D'Amato 7, Gaffney 7, Maclellan 8, Almaviva 7, Gaffney 7, O'Connor 7, Cotton 7.

Referee: Bob Mee (Canberra). Crowd: 1,200

Canberra, its attack blunted somewhat by the absence of Tony Brennan, found a willing replacement in big, solid Redmond Olympic striker, Phil Redmond.

Redmond has shed weight rapidly under strict training schedules, is big and strong and menacing in the air.

Canberra hit the front after a mere five minutes.

The men who made and finished the chance were wily inside forward, Ian Gibson and Redmond.

It was Gibson who made ground on the right flank, and chipped over a well-flighted centre that was easily flicked into the far corner of the net by Redmond.

To their credit, Wollongong immediately got into the fray and the experience and individual brilliance of Phil O'Connor upfront was constant — as was fine support by midfielders Larry Gaffney and Jim MacBreen.

It was in the first half that gaps were most noticeable in Canberra's backline.

It was a backline of youth and relative inexperience in as much as two of its four components were teenagers — E-AIS star Andrew Young and Jim Murray.

Murray, of course, showed his potential last year as Young, only 18, is going to show his in 1983. The remain-

ing and looks like succumbing again on Sunday.

Heidelberg would savor a victory, as it lost the Philips Cup final to APIA last year.

Sydney City Hakoah, which came back after trailing 0-3 against Marconi and finally led 3-2, will be stronger against Brisbane Lions because this time, the team will include Steve O'Connor, Todd Clarke and Pay Kay.

There have been changes at Lions — a new coach, Simon Kistemaker, new players John Sime, Alan Marzialek, Russell Stewart and Boudeulin de Greer, and a Scottish First Division player on the way. Mark Atmore, meanwhile, has been transferred at \$5,000.

However, Hakoah looks by far the better team and should win.

Former national player Steve Hogg was particularly

brilliant, completely overshadowing his man, Billy Williamson, while Australian youth team midfielder Russell Stewart more than held his own against City stalwart Frank Pimblett.

And up from big Barry Kelso, rejuvenated by the switch of clubs, was as dangerous as ever. It was from a Stewart throw that he made the first breakthrough. The ball was thrown to Daunt on the near post and his flick found Kelso who easily side-footed into the far side of the goal.

Kelso finished off a good move that began with a corner. Greer, one of the few exciting moments, played a good long cross after getting the ball back off his corner. Wright rose above the defence and nodded the ball back to Kelso to blast into the net.

And that goal just about ended the Lions' game for the day. From the 50th minute until the end of the game it was all Brisbane City.

Joe Cairney, in a welcome return to form after a terrible season last year, got City's first when he finished a good move begun by Allan Hughes and was driving Bob Hamilton. Peter Toker netted the equalizer with a header off a Pimblett freekick.

Billy Williamson, who went to City in the swap for Kelso, also got in the act of scoring against his old team when he netted City's third.

Stephen Glockner made it four in injury time when he finished a move started by Cairney and Hamilton.

— RICKY ROSSO

de Greer fails

Brisb. C. 4 Brisb. Lions 2

Scorers: BC: Cairney 60th, Tokai 73rd, Williamson 82nd, Glockner 90th.

BL: Kelso 34th and 47th.

Venue: Perry Park.

Crowd: About 1400.

Referee: John Liddle.

Perry 7, Williamson 6, Pimblett 9, Hamilton 8, Williamson 7, Hughes 7, Glockner 6, Williamson 6, McNamee 7.

7, Williamson 6, Williamson 7, Niven 7, Stewart 7, Hogg 8, Wright 6, Daunt 6, Kelso 8, de Greer 5 (Bassingthwaighte 67th).

Referee: Bill Monteville 7.

New Brisbane Lions signing Boudeulin de Greer had a disastrous debut and was substituted.

de Greer, who came to Lions with accolades including being former Norway Player of the Year and Dutch First Division star with Haarlem and De Graaf Schipper, looked unfit and affected by the heat.

John Toker took the field on the left wing alongside big men Barry Kelso and Calvin Daunt, which pushed Australian youth team midfielder Danny Wright into an attacking midfield position after 67 minutes. Lions coach Simon Kistemaker, who organised the signing of de Greer for Lions could persist no further and replaced the "star" with your midfielder Rich Bassingthwaighte.

Lions had been in a Gold Coast training camp since Friday night and the bond among the players appeared to show early as they hassled and fought for every ball.

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brilliant, completely overshadowing his man, Billy Williamson, while Australian youth team midfielder Russell Stewart more than held his own against City stalwart Frank Pimblett.

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— RICKY ROSSO

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Brown adds to Ollie's Woes

SM-Hellas 4

Makedonia 0

Score: Blue: 13th, Brown 38th

8th, Holford 62nd.

Venue: Midland Park.

Crowd: about 5000.

Referee: Jim Fahey.

HELLAS: Luis 6, P. Russell 6,

Xanthopoulos 7, Blair 8, Davidson 8,

Holford 7, Crino 7, Murphy 7,

Brown 8, Egan 8, Woodlin 8.

MAKEDONIA: Wilson 7,

Alfredson, Tomaski 6, Paskovski 6,

Novak 6, Faris 4 (Lucheski 7,

half time), Whittle 8, Odzakov 6,

Carroll 5, McMillan 5, Ward 5.

Everything finally came together for Hellas coach Rasic. Doug Brown had a dream debut for his new club against his old, and Makedonia coach Peter Ollerton was left pondering his future.

It's not the committee that's on Ollerton's back. Knowing president John Branov, he'll remain loyal to Ollerton, but the fans are much more fickle.

Bertogna missing

Newcastle 2

APIA 0

Ground: International Sport Centre

Weather: Fine and hot

Crowd: 1600

Referee: Jim Fahey 7.

NEAS-AELE KO UNITED: Goss 7,

Marini 7, Moller 8, H. Tredinnick 8,

Buckley 8, Watson 7,

Mason 8, Konsalaki 8,

Buckley 6, Mountford 7,

Lowe 7, McMillan 7, R. Jones 7,

Reynolds 7, Watson 7, R. Jones 7,

Reynolds 7, Drysdale 7, Buckley 75th

minute.

APIA: Woodhouse 9, Carter 7,

Marini 7, Moller 7, Battalico 6,

De Ceglia 6, Tredinnick 8,

Buckley 6, Watson 6, Schermann 6,

Glampredo 6. Replacement:

Morsello for Bradley in 72nd min-

ute.

Score: 35th Mason (H) 73rd

Lowe (H).

APIA Leichhardt was without in-

jured Arno Bergua, Mark Pullen

and striker Peter Jones.

Morsello showed his debut com-

bination and performed creditably.

Joe Konsalaki found David Lowe

in the 35th minute. After taking

the defence with him he passed to

Crug Mason and his 20 metre drive beat

the keeper.

— JOE LANZONI

They've been giving Ollerton hell lately, and he doesn't like it. Whatever happens, he's determined to keep on playing. "I reckon I could have done much better than most of them out there today," he said after the game.

Alex Livingstone, a goalscoring midfielder from Scottish club Alton Rovers, arrived on the morning of the match but obviously too early for him to be included in the Makedonia team.

REASON FOR THE VICTORY: Ollerton admitted that his players aren't as fit as they should be because they started training late. Fitness certainly was a factor. The Hellas players ran their opponents into the ground — particularly Carl Holford. Hellas' full backs — Alan Davidson and Bobby Russell — continually linked up with the attack, while Makedonia's full backs stayed in defence. The Hellas midfield, particularly Holford, thoroughly outplayed the opposition. A little demonstration of Hellas' superiority came in 70th minute, when Oscar Crino, cool and aloof, arrogantly stood on the ball and rolled it twice in different directions, with the sole of his foot to shake off a challenge by Alan Whittle who was left dumbfounded. Ole!

THE TACTICS: I had expected Rasic to use Doug Brown as a deep-lying right flanker, but instead he played as a third striker — certainly on the right, but staying up front. It was a line for most of the game. At Makedonia he had been required to go up and down the line, as far as the full back position. At Hellas he has a winning midfield behind him, so he'll score a ton of goals. Ken Murphy was wide on the left, providing good penetration there in a position contrasting with the one he held previously in central midfield. Makedonia used its neq acquisition, George Campbell, as a winger, switching from side to side, with George McMillan and Gary Ward as the central strikers. Con Opasinas marked Charlie Egan without much success, and David Jones took on Steve Woodlin who nevertheless created much off the forward play for Hellas with neat flicks. Makedonia replaced Isaac Farrell with Claude Lucheski at half time and Lucheski made a difference. A half-time blast by Ollerton also served to inject new life into the Makedonia team.

THE GOALS: 13th min: Egan and Woodlin interchange passes, Egan goes to the line and squares the ball into the goal mouth where Steve Blair belts it home 1-0.

35th: Egan cuts in from the right, is blocked by Jones, the ball falls to Brown who scores with a perfect volley 2-0.

36th: Brown breaks through on the right, sees goalkeeper Richard Lovane coming out, and lobs the ball brilliantly over Lovane's head, into the net 3-0.

62nd: A defensive clearance falls to the feet of Holford who belts it home first-time from the edge of the penalty area 4-0.

— LAURIE SCHWAB



Hellas midfielder Oscar Crino (front) shrugs off a challenge from Makedonia's Zarko Odzakov. Picture by LES SHORROCK

Jankovics, Henderson kick out Slickers

Marconi 3

Syd. City 2

Ground: Marconi Stadium

Crowd: 2000

Referee: Richard Lovane 9.

Goals: 1-0 Jankovics, 2-0

Carbone, 3-0 Brown, 3-1 Mitchell,

3-2 Barresi.

MARCONI: Maher 6, Dagnay 6,

Roman 6, Henderson 6, Budini 7,

Carbone 6, Samani 6, Brown 6,

Jankovics 8, Djordjevic 5 (Hunter 73), McCulloch 8.

SYDNEY CITY: Pezzano 6, Carr 9, D'Amato 6, Goss 6, Lovane 6, Murray 6, Watson 6, Barnes 6, Reader 6 (Lee 61'), Kosmina 6, Mitchell 6.

In the 27th minute Mark

Jankovics showed a fairly

small crowd at Marconi Sta-

dium just how dangerous he

can be, by blasting a cross

from Jovan Djordjevic wide of

Tony Pezzano to give his side

the lead.

That was just the tonic Mar-

coni needed, and within a

minute Attilio Carbone made

it 2-0.

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it 2-0.

In the 27th minute

By ALEX VESIC

It's Marconi in a thriller!

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MARCONI 3 (Licata 24th, Jankovic 29th, 98th) ST GEORGE 3 (Barton 19th, Marton 58th, penalty 104th). After extra time, Marconi won 4-3 on penalties. NSW Ampol Cup final at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 5,672. Referee: Gary Power 9.

MARCONI: Maher 9, Bozanic 8 (penalty 56th), Kizzotis 7, McCulloch 8, Degny 7, Budini 8, Sermanni 7, Carboni 6, Brown 6, Jankovic 8, Licata 7 (Djordjevic 68th 7). Coach: Doug Collin.

ST GEORGE: Greedy 9, Skeen 8, R. O'Shea 7, M. O'Shea 7, Ratcliffe 5 (sent off 68th). Barton 6 (Fehér 99th), Muskovits 6 (Koczka 99th), Stone 7, Wilkinson 6, J. O'Shea 8, Marton 9. Coach: Frank Arok.

Marconi and St George thrilled over 5,000 spectators at Marconi Stadium for the second time in five days with some fast and exciting action, with the winning goal coming after a series of penalties to break the deadlock. Jovan Djordjevic was the last of Marconi's penalty takers and he had to score to give Marconi the Ampol Cup. His shot was too good for Terry Greedy and the ball nestled in the top left hand corner of the net to give Marconi this much-needed boost, days before the NSW competition is due to start.

It was a fast and furious game, with soccer the most pronounced winner. Tackles were hard and action was swift with neither side giving an inch throughout the match. Mark Barton at one end and Rod Brown at the other end made goalkeepers work hard and let us have a glimpse of things to come, early in the match, then Saints struck with a fine goal by Barton.

After a poor clearance by Marconi's defence, Barton picked up to storm through some feeble tackling before facing Maher to score in the 19th minute. Marconi's goal

came five minutes later, directly from a corner kick — Rene Licata curved the ball from the right hand side with the inside of his left foot and the ball took a sudden dip close to the near post to elude the groping hands of Greedy.

Dez Marton was through minutes later, but Maher dived at the feet of St George and failed to touch the shot.

Marconi went ahead in the 20th minute. Licata managed to clip away from Dave Skeen and send a high cross to the far post for Mark Jankovic to tap into the net to make it 2-1. Five minutes later Licata was in the clear on the left hand side and only 10 metres from goal but blasted over the bar.

Brown had another opportunity for Marconi close to the end of the first half, but the woodwork got in the way and the home side went in at half time leading by the slenderest of margins.

In minutes into the second half, Marton scored after a good through ball by Skeen to pave the way for yet another exciting finish.

After 66 minutes Jankovic raced through the middle to face Greedy, but the Saints keeper dived at his feet to grab the ball. Jankovic rose and was challenged by David Ratcliffe, who appeared to head-butt Jankovic. Marconi's striker, who has had his nose broken twice during his career, fell to the ground and referee Gary Power had no hesitation in sending Ratcliffe off.

There were some contentious arguments about Jankovic's "making a meal of it" and giving Power "no choice". Without much ado, I would like to ask all those who felt otherwise, what would you do after seeing a player headbut an opponent?

Irrespective of the damage to the opponent, the action deserves only one thing — an early shower.

Jankovic put Marconi ahead with a fine goal in the



NSW AMPOL CUP

Strange though, when you think that only two weeks ago, the two players were the best of buddies at Rushcutters Bay, while in training with the Australian national team.

Ratcliffe was unhappy about being sent-off and felt that it was the action of the opponent and not his own that caused him to be ordered off so he continued his private war with Jankovic in the club cafeteria after the game, according to the Marconi striker.

At the end of the game, Ratcliffe and Slater were fine players indeed, but their behaviour left a lot to be desired and unfair to the club patrons who had to stand and witness the miserable aftermath to a great game of soccer.

I wonder what Saints players felt being left with only 10 men.

Back to the game.

Following that indiscretion by Ratcliffe, a penalty was given to Jankovic, who took it but Greedy made a superb save!

Some fine attacking soccer followed and St George, despite its one man deficit continued to attack and looked the better side. Chances came at both ends with John Muskovits hitting the foot of the post and Robert O'Shea clearing off the line after a fine effort by Ricky Budini.

Extra time was no different with chances coming thick and fast. It was Greedy who made a point blank save in the 93rd minute from Tom McCulloch, after some fine work by Jankovic, then Maher made an equally good save at the other end after Paul Wilkinson headed from a cross by Marton in the 96th minute.

Jankovic put Marconi ahead with a fine goal in the

88th minute. He picked up the ball outside the penalty area and raced past two players before hitting a low drive wide of Greedy.

Marton scored a couple of minutes later and was flagged offside, then in the 104th minute Marton yet again was the saviour of St George. He raced through to face Maher, chipped Marconi's keeper but Terry Henderson made a goal-like save. Marton scored from the resultant penalty to make it 3-3.

Brown missed close to the end, then with seconds remaining Wilkinson was alone and only metres away from goal but managed to blast over the bar. Soon after, extra time was over and penalties had to be taken.

Marton gave Saints the lead with the first penalty, then McCulloch equalised. Robert O'Shea put Saints ahead, but Henderson nullified that lead with a well taken goal. Maher saved a shot from Les Fehér, then Greedy saved from Paul Degney. Michael O'Shea made it 3-2, then Attilio Carbone equalised.

It was left to the last penalty takers.

Greedy hit the crossbar and Jovan Djordjevic scored to end the proceedings and give Marconi the cup.

It was a well earned win after 220 minutes of football which produced 10 goals and some dramatic action which will be remembered for a long time.

Saints were good enough to win, but in a game like this you only can have one winner.

McCulloch, Jankovic, Maher and Budini were the real stars in this Marconi side, while Marton with his 11 goal total in this Ampol Cup in just five games surely is the deadliest striker we have seen for many years. Greedy, John O'Shea and David Skeen had fine games.

Back home in Hungary, Koritar slams Saints

Remember Lajos Koritar, the former Hungarian "B" international who spent most of last season with St George Budapest?

If you don't, you can be forgiven; but Koritar most certainly has memories of "the Land of the Kangaroos", even if his memory is somewhat hazy and selective.

This is the general feeling around last year's PSL Grand Final winner following the publication of a half page article in Budapest sports daily "Nepsport" (People's Sport) recently.

It is a summing up of 10 months Koritar spent in our midst, which opens with the statement claiming "there's nothing better in the world than to be a soccer player in Hungary."

And St George officials agree that there's nothing better for Koritar to be a footballer — back in Hungary.

In an amazing article, Koritar levels a number of charges which would be extremely serious, not for the fact that they are, but for the fact that they are extremely ridiculous.

• Footballing "guest workers" cannot protect their interests.

• There's no guarantee that contractual agreements are adhered to;

• Koritar found it impossible to recall any pleasant memories of his 10 months' stay in Australia;

• He was dropped from the team for no valid reason;

• The St George committee is not interested in the fact that supporters wish to see Hungarian players in the team;

• When he suffered a leg injury, Koritar claims to have known immediately that the club would have no patience in waiting for his recovery;

• He complained about the fact that Australian soccer players have normal jobs, besides earning part of their

IN FOCUS

by PETER SCOTT



vided him with everything, from furniture, through to all the electric appliances and television set, right down to his spoons!"

In spite of the foregoing, Arok emphasised that Koritar throughout his stay was "the perfect gentleman", who was highly valued in his job — also provided by a club official.

"The only problem we had was that he didn't play well enough to warrant regular selection and, frankly, couldn't keep up with the pace of our training schedule."

In spite of the charges in the Hungarian media, Arok believes that Koritar's outburst is only prompted by a need to justify his early return home.

"However, I cannot be so understanding towards Hungarian sports writers," he said.

"The tragic situation of Hungarian football in the seventies and the eighties has partly come about because of their media's attitude of almost total support of the players."

"It is common knowledge in that country how bad the situation is and those who don't know eventually become aware as their teams fall by the wayside in international competition."

"In Koritar's case, as in others, the Hungarian sports media has a habit of highlighting the fact that yet another of our players failed to live up to the physical demands and skill levels of a professional football club abroad, try to find excuses and blame others for failure."

"The fact is that such a failure can only be blamed on the obvious shortcomings of Hungarian soccer itself."

Arok singled out the Hungarian article's comment about Koritar looking aged, "wrinkled and tortured" on his return home.

"This is utter nonsense; in many years of work in football I have never seen rosy cheeked and cubby players, who were also fit!"

In his final comment Arok pointed out that Korin took home with him a Budapest som 15,000,000,000 Forintos in Hungarian currency, to a country where 4500 Forintos is a good monthly salary and even the top paid soccer player in the nation doesn't earn more than 250,000 Forint a year.

Congratulations, Green Gully, best wishes for 1983

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Ampol Cup success kicks off McKendry era at Ajax

By CRAIG MACKENZIE



Len McKendry's only been coaching Ajax for a couple of months but already he has won an Ampol Cup and regards the introduction of striker Bobby Toal into the team and the full utilisation of midfielder David Smallman as the highlights of his stay so far.

McKendry took over a Chapman side. He bought Steve Short from Melbourne Croatia for \$7,500 and Toal from George Cross for \$4,500. Short had been out of the game for 15 months due to a dispute with Croatia. It speaks volumes for McKendry's opinion of the former Victorian state team player that after such a lengthy break he was signed for an uncommonly large fee for a State League defender.

Toal's pace and control always impressed McKendry. Now the former George Cross striker has a much improved attitude toward the game and is reaping the benefits, as evidenced by his stunning Ampol Cup final performance. Toal wants to learn, wants to improve, and the signs indicate that his talents aren't only destined for the State League scene.

But that's what McKendry and Ajax are all about — building for the future, a future which looks almost certain to involve the green and whites in a regionalised national competition. Ajax's broadened horizon. Its recent history shows that it has mastered the art of State League competition. New challenges are needed for this ambitious club. McKendry and his committee join with a growing number of soccer journalists in anticipation of a regionalised national competition next year.

Short and Toal weren't mere stop-gap signings. They were signed because they will be expected to do a job for the club in a regionalised competition.

The quality of the current Ajax squad is reflected in State League. However, a jump to the highest level of competition in the land entails new standards for Ajax, both in terms of coaching and playing staff and in terms of administration.

McKendry already is a proven performer at national league level. Arnold Langer and Guy Spiteri rival any club administrative duo Australia. What of the Ajax players?

"We need a minimum of three new players to compete at the highest level," said McKendry.

"A midfield and a striker would be of paramount importance. The third player could be a specialist in a certain position. We'd have to look at what was available at the time."

"But that's all in the long term. In the short term, I'm happy with the way we are progressing."

"I knew a lot about the squad before I took the job. My main task was to introduce Toal into the side and utilise Smallman more."

"We're teaching Toal how to receive the ball properly, to get his turns in and to use his pace and control."

"Smallman's in the Rolls Royce class as far as a footballer is concerned. He's got so much skill and vision."

McKendry wasn't too worried about the organisation of Ajax's back four when he joined the club. He felt that John Gardiner in the previous two years had done enough work in this department to minimise it as a problem area.

And new signing Short shared McKendry's ideas and approach to the game and slotted into the sweeper's role well.

McKendry simplified the roles of Peter Boyle and Willie

Vassallo. He already knew Jim Williams' capabilities. He made Smallman more effective.

"Contrary to what some people say, I'm far from stereotyped. I change our approach to certain games to minimise the importance of closing up on their midfield. That was our first 90 minute game and I didn't know exactly how fit we were."

of opposing teams," said McKendry.

"Against J.U.T. I knew we would be facing a defensive side. I knew we would get space in front of their defence so I worked on how to best utilise it."

"Against Hellas we worked on the importance of closing up on their midfield. That was our first 90 minute game and I didn't know exactly how fit we were."



Len McKendry — he has succeeded Bobby McLachlan as coach of Green Gully Ajax.

"In the final against Heidelberg I used my knowledge of their weaknesses. I knew that I could exploit the space behind their back four."

McKendry, as is his fashion,

won't be drawn into predictions about the outcome of any game let alone the race to the championship. His soccer thoughts are obsessed with the coming match, the next session, what to work on, strengths and weaknesses of the opposition. He's a thoroughly professional coach.

"People still rave about that Grand Final win over Sydney City. I thought that we played better, if possible, the week before when we beat Hellas in the semi-finals."

"All I ask, is that my opinions are taken as my view on soccer, not as harsh criticism."

McKendry's club coaching career has been highlighted by the magnificent method of play he developed at Heidelberg United and which probably peaked in 1980.

"People still rave about that Grand Final win over Sydney City. I thought that we played better, if possible, the week before when we beat Hellas in the semi-finals."

"Apart from the memory of that method of play, I also have great memories of the players, guys like Jimmy Rooney, Gary Cole and Jamie Paton, the best strivers, performers, this team has been in my time here. Then there's the emergence of John Yzendoorn at the back and Jim Campbell exploding onto the midfield scene. These are the things I'll remember about Heidelberg."

As an interested observer, McKendry reserves the right to critically appraise the performances and direction of the Australian national team. Some see his criticism as counter-productive. He rejects that claim.

"Surely, as a person, I've got a right to express an opinion. I'll always stand by that right."

"I'll also do everything I can to help Les Scheinflug. I may not necessarily agree with certain things but that doesn't stop me from helping the man, as I helped Jimmy Shoulder and Rudi Gutendorf before him."

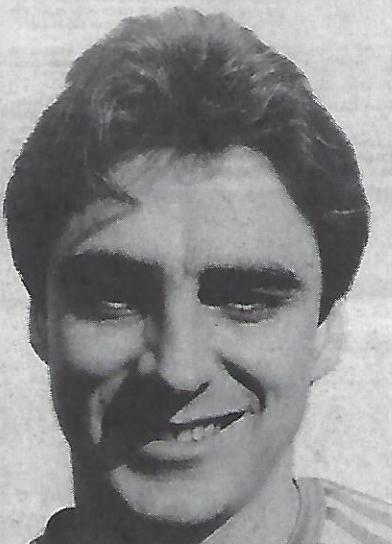
"I worked with Jimmy during the two games against Greece in 1978."

"I produced eight players for Rudi — Gary Cole, Jamie Paton, John Yzendoorn, George Christopoulos, Alan Davidson, Yakkie Banovic, Jim Campbell and Tommy Cumming."

"You can't doubt the help I've given Rudi even though I didn't agree with the way he used my players. But that's my professional and personal judgement. Surely I'm entitled to a say. I think Rudi used my defenders as men markers whereas I was using them as space markers. That's a professional opinion."

The presence of such a well-qualified coach at Ajax reinforces the club's growing stature in Victorian and Australian soccer.

But if rumors linking McKendry with the Soccerco coaching job are true, the green and whites may have a battle on their hands to retain their new leader.



David Smallman, former Welsh international from Everton and Wrexham.



Striker Bobby Toal, retired from Sunshine George Cross.

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Tony Spiteri

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Tough guy holds the purse string

Arnold Langer, the player, was banned for life by the VSF tribunal in 1970.

He was found guilty of assaulting a referee at Seaford Reserve during a Metro League match between Frankston City and Green Gully Ajax. He was innocent.

Langer never revealed his innocence to the tribunal. If he had, he would have been forced to expose the identity of a young team mate, George Zamboulakis, the real culprit.

...I was nearing the end of my playing days and I didn't want to ruin the career of one of our most promising youngsters," said Langer.

"I had arrived late for the game because I had trouble finding the ground. The match had been going for about 15 minutes and although I

wasn't keen to go on, our supporters wanted me to play, so I did."

"We were doing quite well until the 75th minute when the referee gave a terrible penalty decision against us. I ran up to him and complained. He swore at me so I pushed him. Then all our players surrounded him and he apparently was hit from behind and fell. It wasn't me who hit him."

"We found out later that it was George but when I got to the tribunal I thought how terrible a thing it would be if this youngster's career was ruined, so I took the rap."

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Ajax's president at the time was Charlie Farrugia. He banded the VSF for two years before the federation relented and lifted Langer's lifetime ban.

Langer resumed playing for a season or two but was plagued by ankle injuries and eventually retired. He left Ajax but returned about five years later to watch the odd game. Lou Stafrace was president then. Farrugia still was on the committee but family pressure was interfering with his club duties. He asked Langer to help.

Two months before the Ajax annual general meeting in October, 1978, Langer was co-opted onto the committee. At that AGM he became club treasurer. Guy Spiteri became president. Ajax's surge toward the top in Victorian soccer had started.

"We appointed Bobby McLachlan as coach in January, 1980. My first, immediate impression of Bobby was that he could do a job for us. I thought to myself, here's a man who can take us places," said Langer.

Ajax's aim was to climb into the State League top four in 1980. It finished third.

The green and white took a crack at the championship the following year and succeeded. They also won the Ampol and Dockey Cup in 1981.

1982 was just as successful. A second successive championship and the Dockey and State League Cups were added to an impressive haul of honours.

Langer sees a sound administration as the springboard for success. Sure, you need good players and good coaching, but the running of the club is of paramount importance to Langer.

"I had difficulties during my first year as Ajax treasurer. Being a German, I found that a few Maltese people were watching me left, right and centre to see what I was doing with their club's money. I don't have any such problems now. I'd like to think that I have earned the respect of everyone at the club."

"You've got to have a top administration to get anywhere. Look at South Melbourne Hellas — all the money in the world, all the players, a great coach in Rale Basic — but it hasn't got anywhere in the national league. I put that down to poor administration."



Arnold Langer — banned for life as a player

"Hellas lacks discipline. Look at some of the goings on there with players over the past few years."

Langer and president Guy Spiteri are the strong men at Ajax. Langer says that every decision is argued among the committee and put to the vote. He refutes any suggestion of Ajax's administration being merely a two-man show. And Langer isn't eyeing the Ajax presidency.

"I wouldn't want to be president of any club," he says.

"My aim is to remain on the Federation's board of management and maybe, take on a more responsible role in the future."

"One day I'd love to be involved with the national team. I really enjoy my work with the State squad and my aim there is to make the Victorian team the showpiece of the States."

Langer is forthright about the number of good coaches here, and who could competently handle the Socceroo job.

"There are five top-class coaches in Victoria — Len McKendry, John Gardiner, Rale Basic, Bobby McLachlan and Cedo Cirkovic. They are the only men I would let look after my team. With any one of them in charge I could go home and sleep well at night."

'We'll win the league again'

"As for the national team coach, there one as good as McKendry. That's up to him, but I've told him that I will do anything in my power to help him get the national team job."

"I hope he gets the job, even though it's a big loss to my club. But you have to think about more than just your club. You have to think about the advancement of soccer in Australia as a whole. McKendry has a special ability to get absolutely everything out of players and with someone like him in charge, we would be confident about Australia qualifying for the 1986 World Cup finals."

When McLachlan left Ajax late last year after the most successful period in the history, the committee decided not to advertise for a coach. Langer and Spiteri empowered to approach prospective coaches and recommend the man for the job to committee. Langer spoke to McKendry, Kapetanovic, Attila Abonyi and Michael Schaefer among others.

"At first, I was too shy to talk to him. I didn't think that he would want to join a State League club but the more I talked to him the more I wanted him at Ajax."

"I took him to lunch and we discussed things openly. He decided to join. No one has the best coach in Australia."

Langer always was confident of Ajax winning this year's Ampol Cup despite early exits from the four Melbourne-based NSL sides. He never considered defeat. Neither did McKendry.

"I always told you, Craig, that Ajax win the Cup, didn't I? I think that I was the most confident bloke among our mates."

"I realised how confident McKendry was when I met him at Olympic Park's match before our semi-final against Heide. He asked him how the team looked. He said David Smaillman was injured and it might better to save him for the final."

"As Len walked away from me, the confidence implied by his statement struck



• Ajax's fine facilities are highlighted by plush social rooms (above) and new VIP and press areas which give an excellent view of Green Gully Reserve (below).

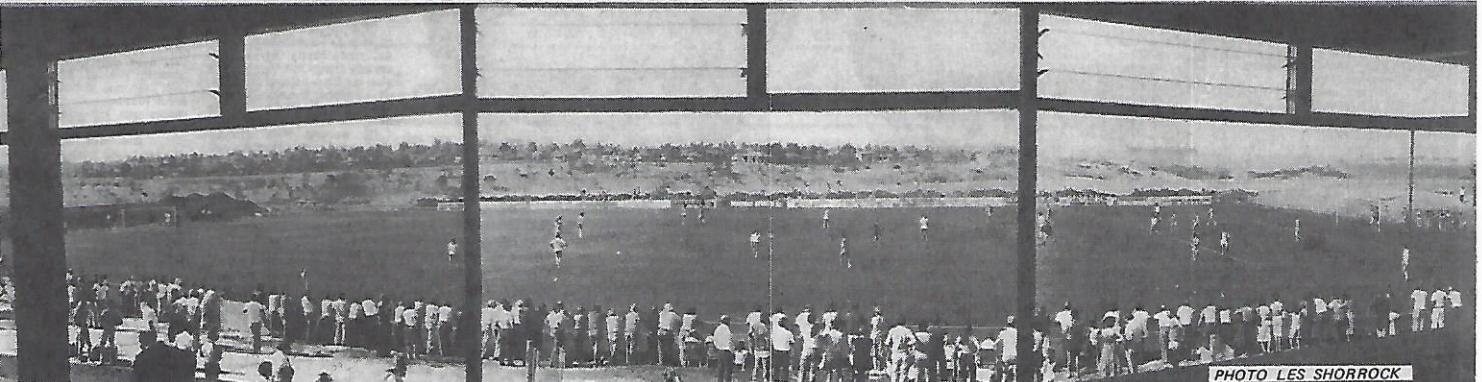


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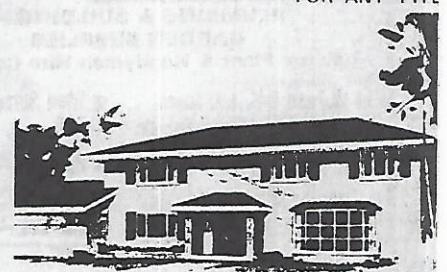
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• Ajax and the 1983 Ampol Cup. Back row: Guy Spiteri (president), Mario Borg (team manager), Lou Denys, Peter Lewis, Willie Vassallo, Fred Baller, Peter Boyle, Steve Short, Fab Mancinelli, Jim Williams, Dane Beranic, Kit Greshan, Ron Kremer, Len McKendry (coach), Garnet Robinson (from Ampol).

Paul Azzopardi (vice-president), John Borg (physiotherapist). Front: Charlie Parisi (property steward), Joe Camilleri (team coach), David Smallman, David Hegbin, Bobby Toel, Paul Lewis, Steve McKenna, Arnold Langer (treasurer), Dieter Witkowski (committeeman).

The quality of Ajax's squad is best understood in terms of the many Ajax players who are targets for other clubs. Marconi wanted to buy Stuart Cannell, Melbourne Croatia was keen to sign the Lewis lads, Peter and Paul All the same, Langer claims that five Ajax players were being chased by a number of clubs before the Ampol Cup.

Langer is confident of Ajax winning its third successive championship. Then, Arnold Langer simply is a very confident self assured person. He hasn't finished making his mark as an administrator on the Victorian and Australian scene.

He certainly has made his mark on the VSF tribunal, appearing about 20 times during his 10 year playing career with Ajax.

"I just played the game hard."

He's playing a different game now but with just as much gusto. Ask any of the Ajax players whose contracts expire and are up for renewal.



• The Ajax squad which won the 1979 Ampol Cup. Back row: Nigel Daniels, Andy Segi, Joe Pavlekovic, Peter Donaldson, Mick Klerin, Steve Crilly, Victor Negro, Lou Denys, John Patten, Willie Vassallo, Dava Perkin. Front: Les Thomson, John Cain, Billy Vojtak (player-coach), Ian McCarthy, Steve Carr.



• Ajax and the 1981 Ampol Cup. Back row: Guy Spiteri, Mario Borg, Lou Denys, Gus Macleod, John Gardiner, Grant Smart, Billy Murray, Gerry Bennett, Bobby McLean (manager-coach), Steve Crilly, Arnold Langer. Front: Kit Greshan, Stuart Cannell, Kevin Wall, Willie Vassallo, Lino Gresh, Dane Beranic. Sitting: David Hogben

Games for 1983

Ajax's State League home games in 1983:

V Melbourne Croatia, Sunday, March 27
V Albion Rovers, Sunday, April 3
V Northcote, Sunday, April 17
V Morwell Falcons, Sunday, May 1
V Sunshine-George Cross, Sunday, May 15
V Fawkner, Sunday, May 29
V Doveton, Sunday, June 19
V Polonia, Sunday, July 3
V Ringwood Wilhelmina, Sunday, July 24
V Box Hill, Sunday, August 7
V Juventus, Sunday, August 21
V Croydon, Sunday, September 11
V SM Hellas, Sunday, September 18

V Melbourne Croatia, Sunday, March 20
V Ringwood Wilhelmina, Sunday, April 10
V Box Hill, Sunday, April 24
V Juventus, Sunday, May 8
V Croydon, Sunday, May 8
V Croydon, Sunday, May 22
V SM Hellas, Saturday, June 4
V Albion Rovers, Saturday, July 16
V Northcote, Sunday, July 31
V Morwell Falcons, Saturday, August 13
V Sunshine-George Cross, Sunday, August 28
V Fawkner, Sunday, September 11
V Doveton, Sunday, September 25

Ajax's State League away games in 1983:

V Polonia, Sunday, March 20
V Ringwood Wilhelmina, Sunday, April 10
V Box Hill, Sunday, April 24
V Juventus, Sunday, May 8
V Croydon, Sunday, May 8
V Croydon, Sunday, May 22
V SM Hellas, Saturday, June 4
V Albion Rovers, Saturday, July 16
V Northcote, Sunday, July 31
V Morwell Falcons, Saturday, August 13
V Sunshine-George Cross, Sunday, August 28
V Fawkner, Sunday, September 11
V Doveton, Sunday, September 25

Honors galore

Ajax's Club Record:

1955 — formed as a junior club
1956 — formed as senior club
1964 — Fourth Division runner-up
1966 — Third Division runner-up
1971 — Second Division champion
1976 — First Division champion
1979 — Ampol Cup winner
1980 — third in State League
1981 — won State League, Dockerty Cup, Ampol Cup
1982 — won State League, Dockerty Cup, State League Cup
1983 — Ampol Cup winner...

Stars since '62

Ajax's Players of The Year:
1962 — Sammy Psaila
1963 — Arnold Langer
1964 — G.A. Nicholls
1965 — Michael Gambin
1966 — Arnold Langer
1967 — Charles Vella
1968 — Tony Gallagher
1969 — Frank Campbell
1970 — Nicholas Kobl
1971 — Tony Vella
1972 — David McCurry
1973 — Franz Berens
1974 — Boris Brani
1975 — Franz Berens
1976 — David Cole
1977 — Jim McGill
1978 — Ian McCarthy
1979 — Willie Vassallo
1980 — Jimmy Dunne
1981 — John Gardner
1982 — Jim Williams

Spiteri the boss

The Green Gully Ajax Committee:

PRESIDENT: Guy Spiteri

VICE-PRESIDENT: Paul Azzopardi

SECRETARY: Mr van Lakis, Tel: 615 5058 (B), 367 2421 (H) 8 Balanarring Drive, St Albans, 3021

TREASURER: Arnold Langer

COMMITTEE: F. Aquilina, B. Brani, J. Chircop, M. Coughlan, C. Darmanin, R. O'Shannessy, V. Pace, D. Witkowski

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Get out, Derwall, sensations at Juve

In a poll conducted by the Cologne paper "Sport-Illustriert," 60 per cent of those questioned demanded the resignation of national team manager Jupp Derwall. Most charged him with lack of authority and inability to control players. As his successor, they suggested former assistant Erich Ribbeck (56.3 per cent), Hennes Weisweiler (30 per cent), Ernst Happel (8.1 per cent). Also, 66.5 per cent demanded the sacking of Hermann Neuberger, president of the German federation (DFB). In 15 internationals over the past season, West Germany has won eight, drawn three and lost four, with a goals tally of 24:16. It is 12 years since so many goals were conceded (19 in 1970) but then four more were scored. And you have to go back 24 years to find the Germans losing four times. In their whole history since 1908, the national team only once (1956) lost five games in a season.

Bye, Figueroa

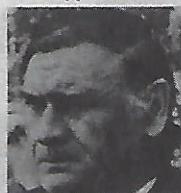
Chilean super star Elias Figueroa says he will retire at the end of the season after a 20-year professional career. Figueroa, 36, of Colo Colo, is likely to become president of Chile's oldest and most traditional club, Santiago Wanderers of Valparaiso. He played against Australia in the scoreless draw during the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany.

Lugue moves

Leopoldo Lugue, Argentinian striker in the 1978 World Cup finals, has signed a six-



Jupp Derwall



Kaz Gorski

month contract with Santos of Brazil after being out of soccer since returning from Mexico late last year.

Juve sensations

Such is the disappointment at big-spending Juventus that Michel Platini may 'retire' to the North American Soccer League next season, Zbigniew Boniek may move to Bayern Munich and Paolo Rossi could be sold to Milan. These and other stars were expected to leave Juventus in the championship, but then it's almost no hope now of catching leader Roma, coached by Nils Liedholm.

Littbarski

Internazionale's chief Sandro Mazzola wanted to buy Koen's Pierre Littbarski until he found that the player wanted a \$700,000 signing-on fee and that Koen was asking for \$2 million.

Fatal cartilage

Ezio Scaini of Italian Third Division club Vicenza went into hospital to have a cartilage removed, never recovered from the anesthetic, and died.

Scottish Cup

SCOTTISH Cup holders Aberdeen have been drawn over Parochial-Clyde in the quarter-finals. Other ties to be played on March 12 are: Queen's Park v Rangers, Airdrie v St Mirren, Celtic v Hearts.

FA Cup

FA Cup quarter-finals: BURNLEY v SHEFF. WEDY ASTON VILLA v ASTON VILLA MANCHESTER UNITED v EVERTON, BRIGHTON v NORWICH CITY.

Ties to be played on Saturday, March 12.

LATEST odds on the FA Cup from Corals are 13-8 Man-



Michel Platini

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Cobreloa

Cobreloa, from the mining town of Calama, won the Chilean championship with two rounds to go, as did Cal's America in Colombia.

Brazil's heroes

Brazil's most capped players: Djalma Santos 100 games; goalkeeper Gilmar 96/100 goals conceded; Rivelino 94/26; Pele 93/81; Jairzinho 85/37; Gerson 78/18; Nilton Santos 77/3; Didi 70/20; Zico 67/47; Leao 66/34 conceded.

Korea ban

FIFA has endorsed a two-year international ban on North Korea over a vicious attack on Thai referee Vith Gaekwai during its 2-3 loss to Kuwait in the Asian Games in India.

Maltese mauled

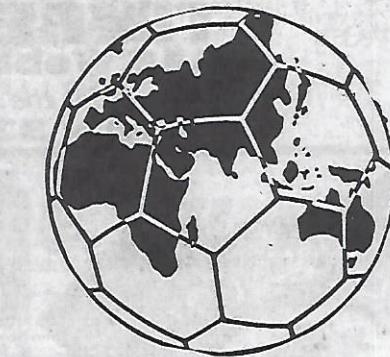
Malta continues to be easy picking for the other Europeans. In recent matches, Malta lost 0-7 to Bulgaria and 0-2 to US Botev on a Bulgarian tour and a 0-6 loss to Holland in the European championships. The Maltese however, showed better form in losing only 1-2 to Nottingham Forest before a record crowd at Marsa and drawing 0-0 with Bulgaria in their return match. Bulgaria, however, replied by thrashing Maltese league leaders Hamrun Spartans 7-1.

Hungary tours

Hungary toured the Middle East with the following players: Katszira, Zsibors, Sallai, A. Kerekes, Garabas, Sallai, A. Kerekes, Garabas, Varga, Moldovan, Hanich, Nyilas, Paczik, Burcsa, Pasztor, Bodony, Szemel, L. Kiss, Gy. Kerekes, Polcshak. Playing as a "Hungary XI" they beat Egypt 1-0 and 2-0 and drew 1-1 with the Egyptian Olympic team. After these games, coach Kalman Meszoly said he would recall Csapo, Fazekas and Meszeros from abroad.

Gorski at AEK

Former Polish national coach Kaz Gorski has replaced Teodor Czajkowski, coach of AEK Athens. Gorski previously guided Panathinaikos, Olympiakos and Kastoria. Only 2000 fans turned up to see AEK lose 1-4 to Eintracht Frankfurt in front of only 2000 fans and the game was intended to be a money-splinter for AEK Eintracht; incidentally, the Year in two separate polls.



Archie Gemmill

Aberdeen tops

After Uli Hoeneß had watched Aberdeen take Celtic to the cleaners in Glasgow he said that the Dons are a better side than Barcelona, Real Madrid and Inter Milan.

Forgotten

Forgotten man of Scottish soccer. That's David Hay, the former Celtic, Chelsea and Scotland defender who as manager took Motherwell into the Premier League this season, then immediately quit to take up a post as manager of a luxurious sporting complex in Florida but trouble in obtaining the necessary work permit has keyboarded his future as he still remains in Scotland.

Flights cut

First Division side Ipswich Town's for economy reasons to discontinue flying to its "long distance" away games, places like Sunderland, Swansea etc — only a matter of around 600 miles return trip. These are only a hop, step and jump compared with the vast mileage covered by the Australian National League sides.

Heart attack

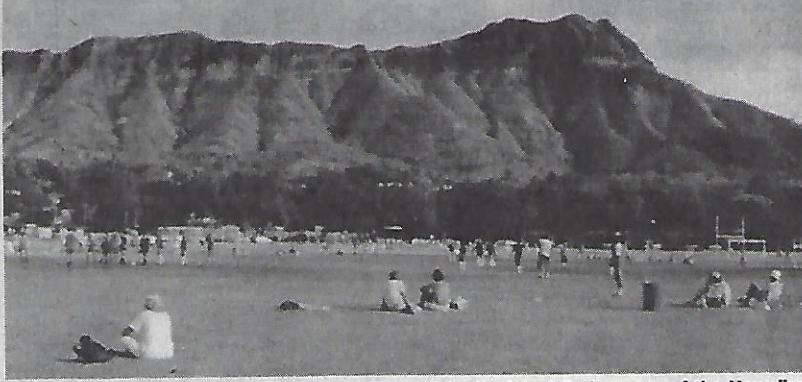
Former Czech World Cup winner Tomas Pospichal who is not team manager of club side Bohemians is back in business after major heart surgery.

Andy Lynch

Andy Lynch, the former Celtic defender who was in its Australian tour line-up in 1977 is back in the team for the team that met with material NASL. Lynch was assistant to English/Italian star Eddie Firmani who has parted with the Manics.

Unique adventure for amateurs . . .

Hawaii offers sun, surf and soccer



Diamond Head, the now dormant volcano, overlooks Kapiolani Park, venue of the Hawaiian Masters tournament.

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Gahu, the most hyped-up of the eight Hawaiian islands, means "The Gathering Place". I was there when it served as the venue for the Royal Hawaiian Masters tournament, contested by 16 teams of over-30 amateurs.

The teams included North Shore Killarney from Canada, Tainan Municipal from Taiwan, Zagreb-California, Cobra Constructors from Seattle, the Roman Senators from New Jersey, the Pan Am Globetrotters from Middlesex, England, and Laguna of Hawaii.

For those familiar with the annual Mallacoota tournament on Victoria's far east coast, imagine that magnified in stature, transported to Waikiki beach and boosted by professional promotion.

Those who have competed in Hawaii — Sydney University reached the final a few years ago — regard it as the ideal opportunity to combine their soccer with the experience of being one of the world's major tourist spots.

Players fork out an overall fee that covers air travel, hotel accommodation (top class), sightseeing tours, luaus, an awards night banquet, and lots more. The cost by the way, is extremely reasonable.

Clubs interested in getting into the Hawaiian soccer experience should contact Stephen's Travel at 88 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000, phone (02) 231 3833. Talk to Ken Grover or Robert Gibson.

There's also an Hawaiian women's tournament. The Australian national women's team is over there at the moment.

Greater things are on the horizon.

Dennis Minka, the man who runs Royal Hawaiian World

Sports, plans a massive tournament in 1984, covering senior, masters (over 30) and women's competition.

Kurt Silberstein of the US Soccer Federation, envisages a Pacific Coast soccer tournament for club teams from countries with a Pacific coastline.

Digressing briefly, Silberstein has Newmarket women's team from Queensland touring the US in October this year and will invite at least two Australian women's teams to take part in an international competition in the US in August-September 1984.

In addition, he offers Australian men's teams the opportunity to take part in the annual Independence Day classic for amateurs in California for July. That, too, includes entertainment, banquets, sightseeing, and a package fare.

Clubs can contact Silberstein at 5302 Ayrshire Drive, San Jose, California 95118, phone (408) 265 0794.

Now for a mouth-watering taste of Hawaii. Eat your hearts out!

First there's the climate. It was winter, but the temperature was a constant 30-plus and the sea was warm. We had the choice of languishing under swaying palms on Waikiki beach, sunbaking by the pool and the bar at our hotel, the Princess Kaiulani, or travelling across the cloud-embraced mountains to the more sedate and more beautiful north.

At night, Waikiki and downtown Honolulu offered a myriad of nightclubs and bars for the sedate or the kinky. The restaurants featured food fare from many nationalities and if you like that sort of thing, you can have just about every type of take-away meal in the world.

John Economos practically blew his mind. John of the Sydney publication Soccer What's Name, had never been out of Australia before. It was all too much for him. He zapped here and there, on the verge of a



Players of 1st FC Edmonton (Canada) and Tainan Municipal (Taiwan) at a Luau near Paradise Beach.

pleasure-induced coronary. He was so wrapt he spent four hours writing about a thousand post cards only an hour after getting off the Pan Am liner. Then he spent an hour buying an Hawaii T-shirt.

The hospitality couldn't have been better. Dennis Minka and his lovely Jane, Sue Harrington, big Pete "Lurch" McKibbin and Co. bent over backwards until their spines cracked.

It's Minka, who's been running soccer tournaments in Hawaii since 1976, who gave us most of the spilt about this island State.

Diamond Head, a now dormant volcano that overlooks Kapiolani Park, site of the soccer masters, was mistaken by the first European settlers as a goldmine — or, to be precise, a diamond mine. Volcanic flows had left crystalline remains that resembled pieces of broken Coke bottle bottoms, they were so smooth. After all, North America has a small base inside the volcano. In fact, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the army took over all the mountain tops for strategic purposes and thus became one of five major landowners in the Hawaiian Islands. The other four are family estates — those of Campbell, Bishop, Alexander and Baldwin and Castle & Cook.

On a tour down "Millionaires' Row" — the longest stretch of millionaires in the world — we were enlightened to the fact that film stars Carole Lombard, Jim Nabors and James McArthur all have houses here. At nearby Waialae golf club the initiation fee is a mere \$15,000, plus about \$5000 a year membership.

We get to see the little beach which was used by Bert Lancaster and Deborah Kerr for their famous sexual encounter in "From Here to Eternity". Minka tells us the sand is still warm. It's opposite Rabbit Island. Appropriate, I thought.

And did you know that according to legend, the islanders ate the palms and soles of Captain Cook after they killed him, in order to retain some of his magic?

Minka also tells us the story of King Kamehameha, originator of the old Hawaiian dynasty. This guy — who stood at 6 ft 5 in — gained power by inviting all his rivals to dinner and killing them. Minka, in contrast, invites us to a Chinese restaurant and kills us with jokes and good-natured ribs about me eating the flowers from my Mi-Tai (Hawaiian alcoholic foliage).

Anyway, back to Kamehameha. Some Europeans take him to England to see how royalty lives, and he decides he wants to live the same way. He needs money, though. So this Pomp with an eye for a buck works out a plan. He tells him to give away all the land to all the people and in return, collect taxes. If they fail to pay up, this guy says, then their next of kin are responsible, and if they haven't got the cash, then the land can be bought for the value of the unpaid taxes.

Right, says the King let's do it.

So this guy — I think his name was Judd — devised a clever scheme to get all the land for himself. Every time some Hawaiian died, he entered in the official records not the name of the deceased, but a different name entirely. Relatives on the other side of the island had no way of knowing who the dead guy was, so they didn't pay the taxes owing. In stepped Judd and bought up the land.

Today, as a result of his connivance, no-one in Hawaii knows to whom he or she is related.

A bit more tourist trivia — Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the US and the 25th highest average income, it has no billboards, most couples work for the government by day and in the tourist industry at night, so they have four incomes, which just about make ends meet. A two-bedroom flat in Honolulu costs about \$800 a month. Out in the sticks, you're up for between \$350 and \$500 for a two-bedroom house.

A plague of rats developed in Hawaii as these cute little rodents jumped off ships from China in the last century. According to Minka, a misguided Italian (Mingo too is of Italian ancestry) tells the men who matter, "Have I gotta da schema for you". Mingo reckons it was on this relatives. Get mongooses (mongooses) out here and they'll kill all the rats. Wrong. Mongooses eat snakes, not rats. Also rats are natural, mongooses come out in daylight. Now Hawaii has a huge population of both rats and mongooses (mongooses) and a strange-looking creature called a ratgoose, or is it monrat???????

Anyway, back to the soccer. I see Laguna of Hawaii beat 1st FC Edmonton (half German, half Croatian) to advance to the final against Langley of California. I have to leave before the final, which is played at Aloha Stadium near Pearl Harbor. This sta-



Dennis Minka, organiser of the Royal Hawaiian Masters tournament at Waikiki.

dium is something else. It's built on tracks and rollers that enable the two halves of the stadium to concertina in and out, depending on the sport being played there. Each time the operating button is pushed it costs \$12,000.

I have to miss the awards banquet, which according to Pete "Lurch" McKibbin, would "Knock my socks off".

Economos and I have dubbed him "Lurch" after the Adams Family monster. He's huge in build, a former goalkeeper who had his cheekbone

busted, his eye socket split and his life hanging by a thread because he tried to make a save with his face. Economos wanted a picture taken with McKibbin but the photographer found it difficult to fit both in the frame for a close-up. No problem. McKibbin grabs Economos in a bear hug and picks him up like a feather. "Take the shot", he commands.

Elaine Watson, a leading women's soccer official from Queensland is here, as advance scout for the national team. I'm helping Lurch clear up after the semi-final when she wanders over for significant observations. "Have you walked over that pitch?" she asks as I strain over concrete blocks. "Yeah, I've run over them on my morning jog."

"Don't you think that pitch is a fraction shorter than the one behind it?"

"Dunno."

"I think this near-side penalty area isn't as smooth as the one on the other side."

"Oh, yeah?"

"I think I'd better walk over them and take a rough measure."

"Do that."

She'd better check the mean temperature for the month. It may be one degree too hot or cool.

Is Waikiki beach perhaps 20 meters too far from the hotel? Do the big trees cast unacceptable shadows?

Can that sun be turned down a bit?



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"Soccer Action" editor Laurie Schwab and the view from Poli Pass in the mountains outside Honolulu.

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Cumming back in big charity clash

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Tommy Cumming's return to representative soccer is the feature of tonight's (Wednesday's) big Bushfire Appeal clash at Olympic Park at 8.15 pm between Rale Basic's NSL select and Len McKechnie's State League select.

The curtain raiser, at 6.45 pm, is the junior Ampol Cup final for under-12s featuring Ardeer and Box Hill.

Cumming's comeback after a two-year lay-off due to a crippling groin and pelvic complaint, is a welcome sign not only for Victorian State team coach Tim White, but especially for Soccerroos boss Les Scheffing.

The little Scot played for Melbourne Croatia in the recent Ampol Cup series and his sharpness improved with every game.

Cumming's size, skill, pace and aggression long have endeared him to the fans. When he's in possession there's a buzz of anticipation around the ground. He's a tremendous character both on and off the field and one of the personalities who adds much needed color to the Victorian and Australian soccer scene. He has represented Australia and Victoria with distinction. Let's hope he can do so again.

Rale Basic accepted the job of coaching the NSL select on the proviso that Makedonia's Peter Ollerton, J.U.S.T.'s Bobby McLachlan and Heidelberg's Ken Morton join him as selectors. This coaching quartet selected four players from each Melbourne based NSL team and put together a star-studded squad.

Makedonia fans will be enthusiastic over the selection of former Vardar Skopje midfielder Zarko Odzakov. J.U.S.T. fans will be keen to see Zoran Iloski and Zdravko Lujic in action while Heidelberg Alexander supporters can enjoy watching Charlie Yankos and Theo Selenidis.

There must be a question mark however, hanging over the NSL select's ability to function effectively as a team unit. The State League select suffers from no such problems. Coach Len McKechnie has worked with most players in his squad, is well aware of their capabilities as they are well aware of the type of game expected from them.

Even though the NSL goes into tonight's game as favorite, the State League is my tip to win.

The NSL select boasts bigger names in Australian soccer but the State League select's ability to function more effectively as a team unit will see it triumph.

This night game is a fund raising event for victims of the recent, tragic bushfires which swept south eastern Australia and shattered the hopes and everyday life of many people.

We join with all sections of the soccer media in urging you to attend.



The men of Croydon, winners of the 1983 Buffalo Cup. Back row: David Singleton, Lou Kastner, Colin Hasler (assistant coach), Mark Brown, Ian Dobson, Gary Hobson, Steve McCombe, Roy Howard (trainer), Ian Loughnane, Mick Edwards, Paul Wade. Front: Reno Lia, Peter Loughnane, Steve Irvine, Mike Rainey, Jimmy Rooney.

PAUL WADE GIVES CROYDON THE CUP

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

CROYDON 1 (P. Loughnane 90th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0. Buffalo Cup final at Middle Park, Sunday. Crowd: About 2500. Referee: Zoumas 4.

CROYDON: Kastner 7 — Rainey 7, McCombe 7, Dobson 7, Hobson 7 — Brown 7, Rooney 7, Wade 8 — P. Loughnane 7, Irvine 7, Lia 5 (l). **South MELBOURNE HELLAS:** Coach: Ollerton 6 (Goth); Coach: Ollerton 6 (Bill McArthur unavailable due to business reasons).

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Parrot 7 — Davidson 7, Kakantidis 8, Kalfatidis 7, Kaiser 6 — van Egmond 5 (Postecoglou 70th), Bozianovski 7, Abram 7 — Kanasoulis 6, Patsakos 7, Kalambokis 7. Coach: Jim Armstrong.

Croydon won its first honor in State League thanks to a combination of factors — South Melbourne Hellas' lack of defensive discipline in the early stages of the game. Wade's boundless enthusiasm and skill, and Peter Loughnane's 90th minute winner, too poked past advancing Hellas keeper Mark Perree.

Hellas almost scored the decisive goal with two minutes left and extra time odds on.

Tom Patsakos turned and was about to shoot when robbed but the ball rolled wide to Jim Kalambokis. He cut it back from the left of the area to the incoming Pe Abraam but he missed his shot from 12 metres. Again, Patsakos was in possession. Again he had to turn. As he was about to shoot a Croydon defender got a foot in but only succeeded in poking the ball into the path of Tony Kaiser, about six metres out. Kaiser's shot was miraculously saved by Lou Kastner who spread himself well and Hellas had blown its chance of winning the 1983 Buffalo Cup.

Croydon played with three

forwards from the outset although Peter Loughnane often lay deep in the first half. For the last 10 minutes however, the three Croydon forwards stayed forward. Hellas, intoxicated with the possibility of snatching a draw, matched Croydon's forward play where the ball was given away too easily and a few forwards with the flair or skill or running ability to stretch the opposing defence.

In the final minute of normal time, Wade leaped above John Kanasoulis, headed down, then quickly re-gained his balance in time to spot Peter Loughnane in the clear. Wade lobbed the ball over the square Hellas defence, Loughnane ran through and beat Perree from 12 metres out with a low shot. Croydon had won the cup.

Teenager Hellas left winger, Kanasoulis, fairly well held by Mike Rainey, was a bolks boy found himself in a few situations where a more confident player would have run at Rainey but the youngster opted to pass the ball, often back, negating his expected value to Hellas.

Pe Abraam didn't appear on the right wing as expected. Coach Jim Armstrong, noting Abraam's success earlier in the Buffalo Cup when given the job of tagging Doveton, put the youngster onto Jim Rooney. Abraam's foul count was the outstanding feature of his game. Sadly, from Hellas' point of view, Abraam contributed little in a creative sense.

Nick van Egmond was the most disappointing Hellas midfielder. He gave the ball away often in the first half and on the handful of occasions in which he was in threatening positions, made poor choices with regard to his disposal.

It would be dishonest to suggest that this was an classic war of attrition, neither side giving much away at first. Both periods of scrappy midfield play where the ball was given away too easily and a few forwards with the flair or skill or running ability to stretch the opposing defence.

Referee Sam Zoumas disappeared into the 55th minute. Brown scooted past a defender and about to pass when Kakantidis cleared. Wade bundled the ball over the line from the resultant corner but referee Zoumas rightly awarded a free kick to Hellas for a foul on goalkeeper Penne.

Wade, Patsakos and Peter Loughnane all had chances to score but failed. Then Patsakos and Ian Dobson clashed in the centre circle with Dobson being booked. Dobson and Patsakos had failed to the ground after challenging for the ball. Kakantidis and Dobson were replaced with a kick of his own. Zoumas only saw Dobson's indiscretion but merely booked the Croydon sweeper.

Kalambokis got free on the left side of the area with five minutes left. He miscued his shot, sending the ball fizzing across the face of goal. Kastner came out and dived but missed the ball completely. Gary Hobson and Patsakos at the far post almost collided as they challenged for the loose ball which eventually was cleared.

A minute later Kakantidis brought down Ian Loughnane inside the Hellas area. Amazingly, referee Zoumas gave a free kick to Croydon outside the penalty box.

But, when Peter Loughnane struck, Hellas had run its race.

National League Select (with shirt numbers)

1 Dennis Boland (J.U.S.T.)
2 Alan Davidson (Hellas)
3 Charlie Yankos (Heidelberg)
4 Jim Kondanos (J.U.S.T.)
5 Steve Blair (Hellas)
6 Ken McLachlan (Heidelberg)
7 Zoran Iloski (Makedonia)
8 Alan Whittle (Makedonia)
9 Theo Selenidis (Heidelberg)
10 Doug Brown (Hellas)
11 George Campbell (Hellas)
12 Bob Vincent (Heidelberg)
13 George McMillan (Makedonia)
14 Zoran Iloski (J.U.S.T.)
15 Zdravko Lujic (J.U.S.T.)
16 Jeff Oliver (Heidelberg)

State League Select (with shirt numbers)

1 Lou Denys (Ajax)
2 Peter Lewis (Ajax)
3 Keith Adams (Croatia)
4 Steve Short (Ajax)
5 Stuart Cannell (Ajax)
6 Jim Williams (Ajax)
7 Paul Lewis (Ajax)
8 Jim Rooney (Croydon)
9 Carl Gilder (Sunshine-George Cross)
10 David Smallman (Ajax)
11 Tammy Cumming (Croatia)
12 Paul Wade (Croydon)
13 John Dore (Doveton)
14 David Brogan (Croatia)
15 Ian Roodhouse (Box Hill)
22 Sean Keogh (Doveton)

Hulk on the way

Croydon City has signed 'The Hulk'!

Not the far from jolly green giant of TV fame but Scottish striker Joe Sweeney, expected to arrive within a fortnight. Sweeney, 26, is 5'7" and, obviously, solidly built. He's good in the air, has surprising pace for a big man and never stops running. He's a top class target man with a keen scoring sense.

Footscray J.U.S.T. striker Gus Macleod and Sweeney scored 60 goals between them in a season in Scottish junior football with Pollok.

Sweeney spent a year at Crystal Palace as an apprentice until home-sickness got the better of him and he returned to his native Scotland. He gave football away for a while and became a fireman.

He resumed his playing career with Pollok, the Clydebanks and Partick Thistle.

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Victorian cup matches Crompton, House oust Melbourne

KNOX CITY 2 (Crompton 1st, House 38th) MELBOURNE 0. Metro League Cup at Egan Lee Reserve.

KNOX CITY: McTavish, Dian, Dings, Schaefer, Roddis (Ferguson, 60th), Gurney, Smith, Murray, Leesbrell, Crompton, House.

MELBOURNE: Barber, Dagnall, Wild, Gammie, Drimicky, Tepel, Hulley, Ammend, Ward, Miller, Hibbitt, Suba, Utter, Bird.

BEST: Crompton, Smith, Dixon (Knox); Ward, Wild, Barber (Melbourne).

Ernie Leesbrell and House set up Crompton in the first minute and the home side went 1-0 up. Crompton, House, Crompton and Murray went bogging before House increased Knox's lead in the 30th minute.

A superb Murray through ball to Crompton started the move. Crompton to House and the home side had Melbourne on the ropes.

However, Knox tired in the heat and Melbourne was very unlucky not to strike back when Danny Ward hit the post the bar during a six minute spell of pressure.

Knox will host its annual Heidelberg Venerable Perpetual Trophy day on Sunday, March 12. Eight teams are competing: are Knox A, Croydon, Moreland, Yarraville, Nunawading, City, Scoresby, Hawthorn, Ringwood, Utd Serbia and Knox B.

The eight contestants will be split into two, four team groups. The final will be played at 3.30 pm and the presentation to the successful

Celtic off

Glasgow Celtic has declined an opportunity to visit Australia in the Scottish close season.

The prospective tour, would have provided a welcome boost to Celtic coffers, but manager Billy McNeill turned it down due to the Scottish national squad's tour of Canada scheduled for the same time.

Even if Scotland fields eleven Celtic players against the Canadians, it will be scant consolation to the thousands of Celtic supporters in Australia.

— PAUL MOON

Junior bosses, titles

Here are the JLMC members for the 1983 season:

L. Starface (chairman), N. Wood (secretary), I. Petherick (treasurer), P. Dillon (peninsula co-ordinator), A. McPhee (eastern co-ordinator), K. Slack (western co-ordinator), M. Kana (central co-ordinator), P. Cunningham (sub-junior co-ordinator), D. Phillips (fixtures), S. Brown (investigative and disciplinary tribunal), K. Defford (Sports League colts chairman).

Tony Dunkerley has been appointed to pick an under-12 select from regional games. These boys will be sent through the McDonald's Superskills scheme, which is under the scrutiny of Fred Brooks. Any coach or parent interested in the scheme can contact Fred on 467 6315.

Here are the state team coaches:

A. Gentry (under-13s), A. Alexander (under-14s), T. Newbiggin (under-15s).

The under 13 national titles will be held in Alice Springs starting in late September. Both the under-14 and under-15 national titles will start late in the year. The under-14s will be held in Brisbane while the

under-15s will be staged in Sydney.

All Victorian country regions have joined forces to form the Victorian Country Association, which is represented at all JLMC meetings by Ian Marr.

Training has started for the Victorian regional championships. Any youngster wanting to trial for these championships can find details of venues and times by phoning:

Peninsula region (059) 75 4664; Eastern region 221 2809; Northern region 435 3271; Western region 741 2337; Central region 557 4215; Country region (055) 62 5405 or (055) 624 2011.

The regional championships will be held on Sunday, April 10, Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 at the following venues:

Under-12s: Skye soccer club, April 10. Balnarring soccer club, April 16. Hastings soccer club, April 17.

Under-13s: Hawthorn soccer club, April 10. Brighton soccer club, April 16 and 17.

Under-14s: Ringwood Wilhelmina soccer club, April 10, 16 and 17.

Under-15s: Greensborough soccer club, April 10, 16 and 17.

Willie Coulson has been freed by Croatia Glionorh and is looking for a club.

The talented midfielder, who played many first team games with English Second Division club Newcastle United, has played with Ringwood Wilhelmina and Frankston City in Victoria.

He's prepared to travel interstate and can be contacted on (03) 762 6245.

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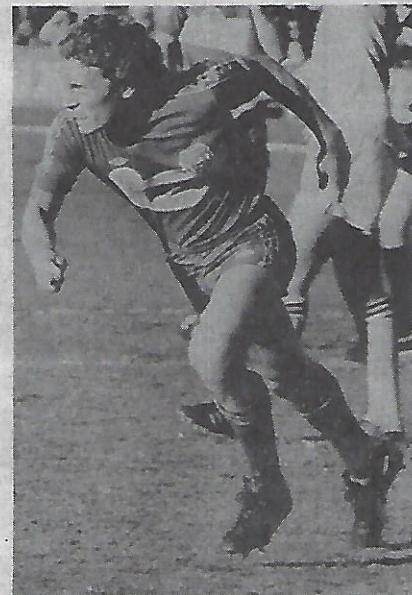
NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

Presents

ROUND ONE

HEIDELBERG
v
LEICHHARDT

at
OLYMPIC VILLAGE
K.O. 3 pm



Heidelberg v Leichhardt
Previous results

'79 2-1
'80 5-1
'81 1-0
'82 3-2

FOOTSCRAY

v
PRESTON

at
SCHINTLER RESERVE
K.O. 3 pm



Footscray v Preston

Previous results
'81 2-1
'82 0-1